

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

*Conchologische Mittheilungen als Fortsetzung der Novitates Conchologicae.* Svo. Cassel: Verlag von Theodor Fischer, 1881.

STERN is the title of a work, of which the first volume is now before us, brought out under the able supervision of Dr. E. von Martens, of Berlin. It is published in octavo form, instead of quarto like the important work of which it is a continuation, consists of 101 pages of text and 18 coloured plates. The entire volume, with the exception of a single treatise by Dr. Böttger, of Frankfort, on the species of *Papa* of Oceania, is from the pen of Prof. Martens, which in itself is a guarantee of its excellence. In an introductory chapter the author explains the sense in which he employs the different terms of measurements of univalve shells, also the terms applied to the various colour-markings on their surface, and the direction in which they are placed, concluding with similar observations regarding bivalve Mollusca. The thirty succeeding pages give an account of a number of interesting Helicidæ, principally from Central Asia. All of these are fully described and figured; and although many of them are not absolutely new to science, still the detailed descriptions, accompanied by many valuable notes on allied species, and a complete synonymy, are none the less welcome. Further on, other species of Pulmonata are treated upon, of which *Tornatellina gigas*, from the Caroline Islands, is perhaps the most striking. Pages 33-49 contain descriptions of some remarkable marine Gastropods, notably a large species of *Pleurotomaria* from Japan, being the fourth living representative of a race which until quite recent times was regarded as extinct. Dr. Böttger's paper on the Pupidæ of Oceania is a most valuable contribution to our knowledge of these minute forms. In conclusion, we must call attention to the excellence of the plates, which, without exception, have every appearance of accuracy; and in some individual cases the figures are really artistic. The coloration is good, not being exaggerated, as is the case in some works on conchology. We trust that a publication of such utility to conchologists will meet with the support it deserves, and that the second and succeeding volumes will retain the high character of the first.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*On some peculiar Organs of Eudendrium ramosum.*

By Dr. AUGUST WEISMANN.

IN investigating the origin of the sexual products in *Eudendrium ramosum* Dr. Weismann has discovered some singular organs, of which there is never more than one upon the side of each calyx. They have nearly the appearance of the tentacles, but are three